

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET BASE ISSUE: POLITICAL OFFICE KEEPS POT BOILING

1. SOMALI NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN (SONNA) OF AUGUST 19
PUBLISHED STATEMENT ON BERBBJA PREPARED BY SOMALI JOURNALISTS
ASSOCIATION AND POLITICAL OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY. PURPOSE OF
STATEMENT IS TO EXPOSE QTE POISONOUS IMPERIALIST PROPAGANDA
AGAINST SOMALIA UNQTE.

2. STATEMENT ALLEGES THAT IMPERIALISTS' ANTI-SOMALI PROPAGACRA
HAS ESCALATED SINCE SIGNING OF SOVIET/SOMALI FRIENDSHIP TREATY
IN JULY, 1974. CLAIMS THAT IRAQ AND INDIA WERE SUBJECT TO
SAME DEFAMATION (I.E., BASE ALLEGATIONS) FOLLOWING SIGNING OF
SIMILAR TREATIES WITH USSR AND, MORE RECENTLY, THAT LIBYA WAS
ALSO TARGET OF IMPERIALIST MEDIA AS RESULT OF SOVIET CONNECTIONS.
STATEMENT ALLEGES THAT PENTAGON'S PURPOSE WAS TO DIVERT ATTENTION
FROM US AND QTE NATO UNQTE MILITARY BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN,
ESPECIALLY US BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA AND MASIRA.

3. BEYOND THAT, STATEMENT
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SAYS IMPERIALIST PROPAGANDA INTENDED TO
QTE PSYCHOLOGICALLY UNNERVE US AND MAKE US ON DEFENSIVE

THEREBY

DAMPENING OUR SOCIALIST ORIENTATION UNQTE, TO PROVIDE LOCAL REACTIONARY ELEMENTS WITH MEANS OF BRAIN-WASHING MASSES, AND FINALLY TO DELIBERATELY MISLEAD AND QTE BLACKMAIL UNQTE AFRICAN AND ARAB STATES FOR PURPOSE OF ISOLATING SOMALIA FROM AFRO-ARAB PEOPLES.

4. COMMENT: POLITICAL OFFICE'S RELUCTANCE TO LET BERBERA AFFAIR DIE NATURAL DEATH IS EXPLAINED PRINCIPALLY BY FACT THATUS CHARGES STILL PROVIDE GRIST FOR PRO-SOVIET PROPAGANDA MILLS, LIKE THE POLITICAL OFFICE ITSELF, EVEN THOUGH US PUBLICITY ITSELF HAS DIED AWAY.

5. POLITICAL OFFICE PLAYED HOST JULY 23-30 TO SOVIET JOURNALISTS VASIL ANDREYANOV AND YURI KURUTIS, WHO DURING THEIR VISIT ALSO MET WITH SOMALI JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION. WE ASSUME THAT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN EDUCATING POL OFFICE CADRES TO REAL PURPOSE OF US BERBERA ALLEGATIONS, AS REFLECTED IN POLITICAL OFFICE LINE, AND THAT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN EQUALLY USEFUL IN INSTRUCTING THEIR STUDENTS AS TO HOW TO USE ISSUE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE, AS WELL AS TO ADVANTAGE OF SOVIET/SOMALI FRIENDSHIP.

6. POLITICAL OFFICE IS NOW PLAYING HOST TO FOUR MAN CPSU DELEGATION WHICH ARRIVED AUGUST 17 AND IS LED BY DENISOV EGUENZICH, WHOM SONNA IDENTIFIES AS HEAD OF AFRICAN SECTION OF CPSU'S INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT. SOVIET EMBASSY IS IN EFFECT DRIVING HARD TO CONSOLIDATE SOVIET POSITION IN SOMALIA IN VACUUM LEFT BY ARAB SUMMIT CANCELLATION AND ECONOMIC INDIFFERENCE (MOGADISCIO 1198), AS WELL AS BERBERA CONFUSION. IF SOMALI MEDIA IS ANY INDICATION OF OFFICIAL SOMALI GOVT THINKING -- AND WE DON'T BELIEVE IT IS -- SOVIET UNION IS ONLY FRIEND SOMALIA HAS LEFT. THIS IS OF COURSE WHAT SOVIETS ARE ATTEMPTING TO SELL TO SOMALIA AT PRESENT, WHY THEY ARE SO HYPERACTIVE IN ITS PURSUIT AND WHY, ALSO, STATEMENTS LIKE THE POLITICAL OFFICE BROADSIDE ON BERBERA SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH GRAIN OF SALT.
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